



TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program

What is TNSTRONG?

TNSTRONG (*Tennessee Stop Tobacco and Revolutionize Our New Generation*) is a youth-led, statewide movement committed to raising awareness of the dangers of tobacco and fighting against the tobacco industry's influence on Tennessee youth.

TNSTRONG Teen Ambassadors

The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassadors will plan, implement, and participate in tobacco education and advocacy events across the state. They will play an active role within their communities, counties, and statewide. They will engage in local and statewide activism, educate their peers on tobacco-related issues, and inspire/motivate others to start taking action. These select youth leaders will receive specialized in-person and web-based training to advance their knowledge and further their advocacy skills.

The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassadors are the guiding body for the TNSTRONG movement throughout Tennessee, with supervision provided locally and overseen by the Tennessee Department of Health Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program.

Eligibility Requirements

The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program is open to rising 9th – 12th graders. Applicants must be in good academic standing with a minimum G.P.A of 2.5 and maintain that average throughout their term.



Essential components of the application:

SHORT ESSAY (Attach)

Answer the following questions thoroughly and honestly. Have fun with it. Provide specific examples whenever necessary. Attach completed document to your application.

1. Why are you interested in serving as a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador?
2. What are the talents, skills and/or experience that you can bring to the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program?
3. As a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, what would you like to achieve at either the local or the state level that will contribute to the fight against the tobacco industry?
4. Share with us an experience that you had when you were a leader in a group setting: at school, at work, sports, clubs, etc. What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them? *If you have never been a leader, pick a barrier and describe how you believe you would overcome it.*

Video Submission

All applicants are required to record a video of themselves responding to the following statements/questions. After you complete your video, upload your video to an unlisted private YouTube account using your first name. Forward the link of your video to TNStrong.Health@tn.gov

1. Tell us about yourself (30-60 seconds)
2. What makes you unique? (30-60 seconds)
3. What concerns you about the tobacco industry? (30-60 seconds)
4. What qualities make up a good leader? (30-60 seconds)
5. Name one (1) personal strength that you bring to the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador role and one skill that you hope to develop while serving. (30-80 seconds)
6. Tell us why you are passionate about tobacco prevention.

Letter of Recommendation

All applicants are required to attach one recommendation letter.

What is a Letter of Recommendation? This letter should come from a community, school, or organization leader who knows you well and can describe what qualities you have that make you a leader. This leader should not be related to you. Letters must be submitted independently by an adult, over the age of eighteen, to the Tennessee Department of Health address listed on page 7 of this application.

- Please address these questions in the Letter of Recommendation
 - A paragraph explaining who you are, your relationship to the applicant, and your personal experiences or expertise.
 - An evaluation of the applicant in their skills/accomplishments. If possible offer specific examples that illustrate the person's strengths and qualifications that pertain to tobacco prevention.
 - A Summary that explains why you would recommend this person and to what degree you would recommend them.



TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador

COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

Service Term: September 15, 2020 through September 14, 2021/2022

The purpose of this COMMITMENT AGREEMENT is to ensure all youth applicants fully understand the commitment and responsibilities necessary to fulfill the role and responsibilities as a Teen Ambassador (TA). The form is also intended to inform youth applicant parent(s)/guardian(s), to assure that commitment and responsibilities are understood and supported in the event that these responsibilities conflict with work, school, or other family commitments. The TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador program is an integral part of the Tennessee Tobacco Prevention Initiative. Under the direction and guidance of the Tennessee Department of Health, TAs embody the qualities of leadership, civic involvement and public service necessary to lead both their peers and adults in the continuing effort to protect people from the harmful effects of the tobacco use.

The main objective of the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Program is to lead, inspire, engage, and share tobacco prevention resources across Tennessee.

What to Expect

Teen Ambassadors will have the opportunity to meet many people with different personalities and potentially make lifelong friends. They will initiate, plan, and participate in local, and possibly statewide, events and may meet and interact with legislators. They will develop leadership skills and the understanding necessary to harness the power of youth advocacy for tobacco use prevention and education.

Mandatory Responsibilities

- Read and agree to the TA Commitment Agreement.
- 70% participation in monthly conference calls.
- Must be in good academic standing with a minimum G.P.A of 2.5 and maintain that average throughout their term.
- Have reliable, consistent internet access.
- Contribute information/updates/queries from their region during conference calls.
- 100 % attendance at the Annual TNSTRONG Summit.
- 100% attendance for in-person meetings unless excused.



TENNESSEE STOP TOBACCO AND REVOLUTIONIZE OUR NEW GENERATION (TNSTRONG)



- Regularly check and respond to program emails within 48 hours of receipt.
- Participate in at least one advocacy activity at their school.
- Assist in planning and leading nationwide tobacco events within their county (Take Down Tobacco aka Kick Butts Day, No Tobacco Day, etc.)
- Deliver at least two presentations to youth and/or adults by June 30th, 2021.
- Stay current on tobacco prevention and advocacy through articles, videos, and trainings as assigned.
- Communicate regularly and in a timely manner with local and regional coordinators, TDH, consultants, and fellow TAs.
- Promote TNSTRONG via social media and recruit followers.
- Assist in recruiting members/groups to attend the TNSTRONG Summit.

Each Teen Ambassador (TA) will be reviewed during the term of service for progress on program requirements. In addition, TDH staff members may request a copy of a TA report card to ensure academic responsibilities are being maintained. TDH has the right to remove any TA from active status based on inactivity or any conduct in contradiction to this agreement.

Keep this Commitment Agreement for reference.



TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Application

Term: September 15, 2020 – September 14, 2021 (Open to High School Seniors)
September 15, 2020 – September 14, 2022 (Open to 9th – 11th Grade)

Instructions: Please type or print clearly: Applications must be fully completed to be considered for selection. To apply to become a TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, the applicant must be enrolled/ enrolling in 9th-12th grades.

Application Deadline: September 1, 2020.

YOUR INFORMATION

Name _____ Age _____ Birth Date _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ E-mail Address _____

County _____ Region/Metro: _____

Organization/Group/School _____

Do you have a leadership role in this group? Yes ___ No __, if Yes Explain

School Attending _____

Current Grade _____ as of July 2020.

Will you attend the TNSTRONG Summit 2021? Yes ___ No __ Maybe __

How many years have you been involved in tobacco or any advocacy? _____

What social media networks do you use? (Please fill in the handle /URL)

Facebook _____ Twitter _____

Instagram _____ Pinterest _____

YouTube _____ Snapchat _____

Tumblr _____ Other _____



Signature Page

A TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador must exhibit a high degree of maturity, responsibility, flexibility, and leadership ability. By signing this Commitment Agreement, said applicant agrees to abide by the following terms set forth in this agreement and to make every effort to actively serve the full term on the Commitment Agreement should he/she be selected.

Should I be selected to become a 2020-2021/2022 TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador, I agree to fulfill my commitment by meeting all of the agreed upon standards of conduct and service. I acknowledge that this opportunity is a privilege and, should I fail to meet the expectations listed above, I understand that I may be dismissed from the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador program.

- ☐ *I have read and understood the TNSTRONG Teen Ambassador Commitment Agreement.*
- ☐ *I affirm that the information that I have given on this form is true and correct, and I am aware that the information I have provided may be verified, if necessary, by contacting persons or organizations named in this application, or by contacting any person or organization that may have information concerning me.*
- ☐ *I hereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability any person or organization that provides information.*
- ☐ *I also agree to hold harmless the Tennessee Department of Health, its employees and volunteers, thereof.*
- ☐ *The Tennessee Department of Health may use photographs, video, or audio that may be taken of me.*
- ☐ *Furthermore, I am committed to helping make the vision of a Tobacco-Free Tennessee a reality.*

Printed Applicant Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ E-mail Address _____



Application Checklist

Please make sure you have completed all of the following before submitting your application.

- ☐ Complete the application (please print clearly)
- ☐ Sign the Signature Page
- ☐ Have your parent sign the Signature Page
- ☐ Short essay
- ☐ Recorded video link emailed to TNStrong.Health@tn.gov by **September 1, 2020**
- ☐ Recommendation letter
- ☐ Copy of most current report card.
- ☐ Submit all requirements of your application to TNStrong.Health@tn.gov by September 1, 2020.
 - or
 - Mail to: (Postmarked by **August 20, 2020**)
Tennessee Department of Health
C/O Jullie Meyer
Andrew Johnson Tower, 8th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville TN 37243

******It is ultimately the responsibility of the applicant to make sure TDH receives all of the required paperwork by the deadline. We recommend following up to confirm receipt of your materials by emailing TNStrong.Health@tn.gov******